



TJIC Alert

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ECONOMICS – ENERGY

1. Facing Our Energy Realities: A Plan to Fuel Our Recovery

Institute for 21st Century Energy

February 2011

8 p.

Full Text: <http://www.energyxxi.org/images/FacingourEnergyRealities.pdf>

In an effort to reset the national conversation on energy policy, the U.S. Chamber's Institute for 21st Century Energy today unveiled a plan designed to offer realistic, bipartisan solutions to our nation's top energy challenges. The five-part plan was formulated after Energy Institute officials returned from the first phase of its Energy Reality Tour, a nationwide dialogue with thousands of business and community leaders on a variety of energy issues.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

2. Annual Energy Outlook – 2011

U.S. Energy Information Administration

April 26, 2011

Full Text: <http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/aeo/index.cfm>

The Outlook projections focus on the factors that shape the U.S. energy system over the long term. Under the assumption that current laws and regulations remain unchanged throughout the projections, the case provides the basis for examination and discussion of energy production, consumption, technology, and market trends and the direction they may take in the future.

3. Saving Oil and Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions through U.S. Federal Transportation Policy

Cynthia J. Burbank and Nick Nigro

16 p.

Pew Center on Global Climate Change

February 2011

Full Text: <http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/Saving-Oil-and-Reducing-GHG-Emissions.pdf>

The U.S. consumes over 10 million barrels of oil per day moving people and goods on roads and rail throughout the country. Surface transportation generates over 23 percent of U.S. anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Transportation is the primary cause of U.S. oil dependence with its attendant risks to U.S. energy security. Contributions from this sector will be necessary in any effort to maintain a sustainable and secure economy in the future. There are many opportunities to save oil and reduce GHG emissions under existing federal law and possibly in the next surface transportation reauthorization legislation in the U.S. Congress, while

increasing the mobility of people and goods in the U.S. economy. The paper identifies opportunities possible in transportation reauthorization legislation and using existing legislative authority that will save oil and reduce GHG emissions.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

4. Putting America Back to Work with Clean Energy

Center for American Progress

Richard Caperton and Adam Hersh

7 p.

March 17, 2011

Full Text: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/03/pdf/green_jobs.pdf

Richard Caperton and Adam Hersh explain the benefits of investing in green jobs. Investing in green jobs will immediately address two of our country's most important challenges: lowering unemployment while improving our energy system. For these specific reasons alone, these investments would be worthwhile. But these investments will also significantly improve our economy in the long term, making it more productive and efficient.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

5. Will Green Energy Make the United States Less Secure?

H. Sterling Burnett and Wesley Dwyer

National Center for Policy Analysis

2 p.

February 10, 2011

Full Text: <http://www.ncpa.org/pdfs/ba739.pdf>

Environmentalists have long cited the environmental harms caused by fossil fuels as evidence of the need to move to green sources of energy such as wind and solar power. Recently, some conservatives have joined their cause. However, key components of renewable energy technologies are made from a small number of rare earth elements, and other rare minerals. Despite the name, these elements are relatively abundant in Earth's crust, but they are rarely found in economically exploitable concentrations. The exception to this generality is the People's Republic of China.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

6. Is Biopower Carbon Neutral?

Kelsi Bracmort

Congressional Research Service

17 p.

January 25, 2011

Full Text: <http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/misc/R41603.pdf>

Congress has been increasingly interested in biopower, electricity generated from biomass. Biopower, a baseload power source, has the potential to strengthen rural economies, enhance energy security, and improve the environment, proponents say. Biopower could be produced from a large range of biomass feedstocks nationwide (e.g., urban, agricultural, and forestry wastes and residues). One challenge to biopower production is a readily available feedstock supply. At present, biopower requires tax incentives to be competitive with conventional fossil fuels. Congressional support for biopower has aimed to promote energy security, and has generally assumed that biopower is carbon neutral. An energy production activity is typically classified as carbon neutral if it produces no net increase in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions on a life-cycle basis. The premise that biopower is carbon neutral has come under scrutiny as its potential to help meet U.S. energy demands and reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions is more closely examined.

7. The NRC and Nuclear Power Plant Safety in 2010: A Brighter Spotlight Needed

David Lochbalm

Union of Concerned Scientists

64 p.

March 2011

Full Text: http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/nuclear_power/nrc-2010-full-report.pdf

The crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in Japan following the March 11 earthquake and tsunami is a stark reminder of the risks inherent in nuclear power. One of its consequences has been heightened concern about the safety of nuclear power facilities in the U.S. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the federal agency responsible for ensuring that U.S. nuclear plants are operated as safely as possible, gets mixed reviews in the report. The report examines 14 "near-misses" at U.S. nuclear plants during 2010 and evaluates the NRC response in each case. The events exposed a variety of shortcomings, such as inadequate training, faulty maintenance, poor design, and failure to investigate problems thoroughly. The report offers examples of both effective and ineffective responses.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

8. Impact of Shale Gas Development on Global Gas Markets

Kenneth B. Medlock III

James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy

April 1, 2011

Full Text: <http://www.bakerinstitute.org/publications/impact-of-shale-gas-development-on-global-gas-markets/view>

According to the author, developments in shale gas have turned world expectations for this fuel source upside down.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

9. Gasoline Prices

Toni Johnson

Council on Foreign Relations

May 16, 2011

Full Text: <http://www.cfr.org/energy/gasoline-prices/p10596>

With the Middle East unrest ongoing and the global economy recovering, gasoline prices are rising considerably. But policies to ease U.S. consumer impact take time and policymakers are divided over the course of action.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

10. Energy-Water Nexus: Amount of Energy Needed to Supply, Use, and Treat Water Is Location-Specific and Can Be Reduced by Certain Technologies and Approaches

U.S. Government Accountability Office

April 20, 2011

35 p.

Full Text: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d11225.pdf>

Providing drinking water and wastewater services are two key functions needed to support an urban lifestyle. To provide these services, energy is needed to extract, use, and treat water and wastewater. As the demand for water increases, the energy demands associated with providing water services are similarly expected to grow. GAO was asked to describe what is known about (1) the energy needed for the urban water lifecycle and (2) technologies and approaches that could lessen the energy needed for the lifecycle and barriers that exist to their adoption.

11. Polls on the Environment, Energy, Global Warming, and Nuclear Power

American Enterprise Institute

118 p.

Karlyn Bowman and Andrew Rugg

April 20, 2011

Full Text: <http://www.aei.org/docLib/AEI-Public-Opinion-ENVIRONMENT-2011.pdf>

The authors explore trends from major pollsters on the environment, offshore drilling, gas prices, nuclear power, and global warming. They note that attitudes have shifted significantly in a number of areas.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

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